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COLORADO HARDY CACTI

LAS ANIMAS FLORAL CO.

LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO

Colorado has cacti in considerable abundance and our species are almost all new in collections. " A New Manual of Rocky Mountain Botany " by Coulter and Nelson lists the following:

Mamillaria --------- 4 species
Echinocactus -------- 3 species
Echinocereus -------- 5 species
Opuntia ---------- 11 species

We do not handle all of these 23 kinds since some are rare and others are so nearly alike that there is no reason for handling several.

All cacti native to Colorado grow in a high altitude with hot dry summers and cold variable winters. Our cacti are frost hardy and withstand cold as extreme as 30 degrees below zero when in wilted condition. They become firm again with the warm spring rains. It is reasonably safe to say that Colorado cacti will withstand the cold in many regions. In their native state there is little winter moisture so that in moist climates they will need protection against too wet a soil. They should enter winter in a somewhat wilted condition, accomplished by withholding some water. Give as much strong sunlight as possible. Cacti are of easy culture and give a wealth of blossom and an interesting plant growth for a minimum of attention. The natural soil is dry and low in organic matter but yet fertile. Much is written about soil for cacti but remembering the above will enable a person to use something at hand. Clays hold too much water, coarse sand not enough water. Most soils between these extremes can be used if well drained. Cactus soil should be free from a lot of fresh organic matter, yet a little well-rotted organic matter and some commercial fertilizer is good since the cacti naturally grow on a fertile soil.
Give a cactus good drainage and water infrequently, in winter especially. Yet do not expect a cactus to thrive without water. They need more water in a pot than when planted in the open. A good idea for a potted plant is to set the pot on a saucer well filled with sphagnum of peat moss. A cactus can be killed by drouth but a temporary lack of water fits the natural conditions better. Ours

naturally receive about 12 inches of rainfall annually. Planted in the open in drier climates they will shift for themselves. In moist climates out of doors, plant on an elevation of light soil so that rotting will not occur thru poor drainage.

The kinds of cacti naturally fall into two groups. The Ball Cacti do not branch and never have leaves. They consist of a dome shaped stem, and all are smaller than 6 inches high. The rest of our cacti are in the genus Opuntia. These have small leaves on the new growth that fall off about the time the spines start growing. The Opuntias get larger and are either tree-like in growth or else have flat oval shaped stem (Prickly Pear type of growth).

BALL CACTI

Mamillaria (Coryphantha) vivipara is quite dome shaped growing over 3 inches in diameter and the same in height. The flowers are an inch in diameter and bright purple. The green spineless fruit has a very attractive fruity flavor. This species is easily grown as it really grows better in a climate that is more moist than ours. Technically the plant is covered with tubercules (nipple-like) - by 5/16 inches, grooved on the upper side. On the tip are 12-20 white spines with brown tips. Four central spines are longer and heavier and quite brown. Flowers arise from between the tubercules at the top of the plant. Seeds are brown and flat.

Echinocereus viridiflorus grows 3 inches high by 2 in diameter. The spines are borne on ridges. The yellow flowers appear profusely in June and remain open several days. This is an excellent cactus that grows readily under a wide range of conditions from hot prairies to 7,000 feet altitude. Technically the spines are borne on slight tubercules arranged in about 13 vertical or spiral ridges. The radial spines are 12-18 of variable length and color, most being white with the longer ones red tipped. There is usually one stout red central spines which may be white or absent. The fruit is oval, spiny.

Echinocereus caespitosus is some 3-4 inches tall and pointed cylindrical. The spines are borne on vertical ridges and densely cover the plant. The bright purple flower is quite large for so small a plant. It is 1½ inches in diameter and as showy as an Opuntia blossom. The fruit is dry and spiny. Technically the spines number 13-20 per tubercule and are all radial. Since there are no central spines the plant is not prickly. The spines are short, white, and purple tipped. The fruit splits when ripe and the seeds are round and dark colored.

Echinocactus (Pediocactus) simpsoni looks very similiar to Mamillaria vivipara. It is a high altitude species that blooms very early in the spring with an abundance of pink blossoms - inch across. Technically this cactus is separated from Mamillaria by lacking the groove on the tubercule and by having a spiny fruit. The flowers arise from a white wooly area on the tip. The fruit splits when ripe and the round black seeds fall out. Spines are more numerous than on Mamillaria, not so stout, and purplish red.

Echinocereus gonacanthus is a rarer kind; larger than the rest, attaining 6 inches in height by 2 inches in diameter. It has heavy straw colored spines. The blossom is bright red with very thick petals. Fruit and seed are unknown. There is mystery for you. How does this kind get ahead in the world without seed to start new plants? We find that it does set seed occasionally. Technically the spines are borne on tubercules set in ridges 8-10 in number. There are 6 radial and one central spine. All spines are roughly four sided in contrast to the rest of the cacti which have round spines.

OPUNTIA

All members of Opuntia are larger and branched. The blossoms are large and showy, most being 2-2½ inches in diameter. Most of the fruits are large; all are heavily spined, and while some are dry, others are fleshy and quite edible. All Opuntias are hardier than other cacti, regardless of what genus or where they grow. The pioneers of the cactus group are all Opuntias.

Opuntia arborescens is a shrub attaining 5-6 feet in height. It has cylindrical branches with each seasons growth 5-6 inches long. Each spine is covered with a straw colored sheath that later comes off leaving the spine clean. Therefore this is a "cholla" as none of the prickly pears have this spine sheath. Larger plants flower freely and present a mass of large purple flowers. The fruit which follows is bright yellow and an inch in diameter. It remains attached and in full color a year or more. This is an excellent cactus, showy as large plants but attractive also as a smaller potted plant. Technically the slight tubercules are close set. Each tubercule has 8-30 spines with 1-8 considerably longer so that spines bristle in every direction. Fruit is tuberculed and spiny. Seeds are large and whitish.

Opuntia polycantha, Prickly Pear. This is naturally a creeping plant 6 inches high and several feet in diameter. It is made up of series of flat oval stems 4-6 inches long. There are several downward pointing small white spines and several long brown ones. The large flowers are clear yellow. This is undoubtedly the hardiest cactus found from hot deserts to almost the Canadian Border. Technically this species is distinguished by heavy spines, yellow flowers followed by a dry fruit in which the whitish seeds are so crowded as to be out of shape.

Opuntia humifusa is similiar to the above with orange-yellow flowers. It has fewer spines and the color is a bright green, unlike other cacti. This cactus is naturally a lover of a more humid climate than ours and is hardy. Technically in addition to the above the species is distinguished by the fruit. This is purple, fleshy, and filled with a purple pulp in which the seeds are embedded. The fruit is quite edible.

Opuntia rhodantha is almost indistinguishable from O. polycantha except in flower. The flower is purple red with red stamens and is very attractive. Spines are always white, never brown like O. polycantha.

Opuntia fragilis is a small prickly pear with smaller joints that vary in size and shape. The yellow flower is seldom seen. Instead the end joints are very loosely attached and break off at a touch. These get kicked around and can lay for weeks without drying up. Then when it rains they promptly send out new roots and another plant is formed. This smaller cactus is very cold hardy and naturally grows in colder regions than any other except O. polycantha.

Most nurseries have Yucca filamentosa. In spite of the claims made for it, that specie s is not completely hardy. The only truly hardy species is Yucca glauca which naturally grows as far north as northern Montana and yet is found far south into Texas. It grows abundantly here in Colorado under the driest of conditions but is usually found on sandier soils. The large flat black seeds germinate readily and are not hard to grow. We offer these to our customers or plants on request.

Few plants have the power of motion and many of these move very slowly. Cactus however are unique in being able to move certain parts and do it quickly. The stamens of a cactus blossom can move. Touch a fresh flower and the stamens crowd arround the point of contact and then relax. Wild bees attracted by nectar are trapped by this movement and dusted with pollen. The bees may carry pollen to another flower and fertilize it. The same flower will repeat the movement a few minutes later.

The descriptions in this catalog are technically correct nad are a contrast to the generalized statements of most nurseries. Our catalog is simple because after all no one ever made a catalog grow. What it lacks we are able to add to the quality of the plants you receive.

Our nursery stock is state inspected and free from injurious insects.

TWO NEW SPECIES

Opuntia davisii is like O. arborescens but 2' tall, with white spines, and it has a yellow blossom.

Echinocereus aggregatus is like E. gonacanthus but the spines are less stiff, not angled, and longer. They appear more numerous as the tubercules are closer set. It. makes hemispherical clumps 30" across while E. gonacanthus reaches about 12 - 20 ".

PRICE LIST

Seeds ---- 5¢ a packet

Mamillaria vivipara	Opuntia arborescens
Opuntia rhodantha	Opuntia humifusa
Opuntia polycantha	Mixed cactus seed.

Cacti and seeds are shipped prepaid. When cacti are grown and shipped in pots it is unnecessary for the cactus to readjust itself after shipment. Such shipment only slightly increases the cost of plants and the chances of loss are minimized.

	In Pots.	Out of pots.
Mamillaria vivipara ----	$ .30	$ .20
Echinocereus viridiflorus	.25	.15
Echinocereus caespitosus --	.30	.20
Echinocereus gonacanthus --	.40	.30
Echinocereus aggregatus ---	.35	.25
Echinocactus simpsoni -----	.30	.20
Opuntia arborescens -------	.30	.20
Opuntia polycantha --------	.35	.25
Opuntia humifusa ----------	.35	.25
Opuntia rhodantha ---------	.35	.25
Opuntia fragilis ----------	.25	.15
Opuntia davisii ----------	.40	.30

BARGAIN COLLECTION OFFER

$2.50 brings you one each of the above cacti (out of pots) and 2 packets of mixed seed. Each one is correctly named.

FIG ALL SPECIES

Opuntia devlati is like O. arborescens but 2" tall, with white spines, and it has a yellow blossom.

Echinocereus engelmanni is like E. conocephalus but the spines are less stiff, not angled, and longer. They appear more numerous as the tubercules are closer set. It makes hemispherical clumps 30" across while E. conocephalus reaches about 12 - 20 ".

FIGS LIST

Seeds ---- 3¢ a packet

Familiaria viviparus
Opuntia rhodantha
Opuntia polyacantha
Opuntia arborescens
Opuntia macrorhiza
Mixed cactus seed.

Seeds and seeds are shipped prepaid. Each cactus are grown and shipped in pots it is necessary for the cactus to recover itself after shipment. Such charges only slightly increase the cost of plants and the chances of loss are minimized.

In Pots. Out of pots.

Familiaria viviparus ---- } .30 } .20

Echinocereus viridiflorus .25 .15
Echinocereus conspicuus --.30 .20
Echinocereus coccineus -- .40 .30
Echinocereus triglochidiatus --- .35 .25

Echinocactus simpsoni ----- .30 .20

Opuntia arborescens ------- .30 .20
Opuntia polyacantha -------- .35 .25
Opuntia macrorhiza ---------- .35 .25
Opuntia rhodantha ---------- .35 .25
Opuntia fragilis ---------- .25 .15
Opuntia devlati ---------- .40 .30

BUNDLE SELECTION OFFER

32.50 brings you one each of the above seeds (out of pots) and 3 packets of mixed seed. Each one is correctly named.